Sample Survey, a large number of children drop out from school because of economic reasons.

The other reasons given by the above mentioned survey for children discontinuing education include lack of interest in education and further studies, domestic chores, gender discrimination and failure.

The Central and State Governments have taken several measures to facilitate completion of schooling by children. These relate to increased access to schools, improvement in school infrastructure, incentives for SC/ST students and girls such as free textbooks, uniforms and attendance scholarships, implementation of Mid-Day Meels Programme and residential schools and hostels for SC/ST boys and girls.

District Primary Education Programme (DPEP), which is being implemented in 149 districts, have designed contextually relevant strategies to ensure better participation and retention of children at primary level.

Revival of Sick Public Sector Units

*157. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to news item captioned "Revival of sick public sector units top priority" which appeared in the Statesman, Calcutta dated the 20th April, 1998, regarding revival of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation (HFC) and Fertilizers Corporation of India (FCI);

(b) whether Government are aware that production of Durgapur remains suspended because of failure of primary reformer;

(c) if so, whether necessary replacements/repair work have been taken up on top priority for resumption of production; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The production operations of the Durgapur unit of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFC) were suspended by the Management on 24.06.1997 after a fire in the primary reformer top.

The resource constraints of HFC have not permitted it to undertake the substantial capital investment required for carrying out major repairs/renovation for restarting production in the Durgapur unit.

Setting up of Health Sub-Centres in Villages

*158. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have advised the State Governments to set up atleast 15 per cent of Health sub-centres in Scheduled Caste basties or villages having 20 per cent or more SC population;

(b) if so, how far the State Government of Gujarat have acted on the said advice and opened Health Sub-centres in such basties or villages during 1997-98 with details thereof; and

(c) what other health facilities are being provided to SC people of rural areas in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) Yes, Sir.